**NE/SECSC and LCC SLR vulnerability assessment projects**

**Result of Joint Meeting, Raleigh, NC, February 5, 2013**

**SLR-related vulnerability assessment local decision pilot project**

At the NE/SECSC SLR VA meeting in Raleigh the week of Feb 4, 2012, a decision was made to explore several pilot projects for conducting a local-scale SLR-related hazard vulnerability assessment and adaptation effort. The project, which would occur at 3-6 locations across the NA, SA, and Caribbean LCCs, would examine local resource decision problems related to migratory bird management (e.g., refuge management decisions AND decisions made in surrounding jurisdictions) in the context of larger scale management activities (e.g., regional and flyway scale management decisions).

The goal of this exploration was to make a decision about next steps and an overall strategy for the project by the end of March 2013, to coincide with FY13 science fund allocation decisions by NE/SE CSC directors.

LCC representatives at the Raleigh meeting expressed an interest in doing such a project in the context of ongoing Integrated Waterbird Management and Monitoring Program activities in the Atlantic flyway (<http://iwmmprogram.ning.com/>) to consider how to make use of local, regional, and flyway scale monitoring and modeling efforts in making local, regional, and flyway scale management decisions.

From the standpoint of the CSCs (and LCCs) one important objective for doing this project in collaboration with the IWMM effort would be to integrate refuge and other surrounding jurisdiction land management decisions (made in the context of SLR-related hazards and related to one or more species of interest) into a broader local multi-stakeholder decisionmaking effort.

**“Hot spot” analysis**

Identification of a typology of communities in coastal counties along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts as well as Puerto Rico and USVI. The typology will be based on a ordination/cluster analysis of a suite of variables representing a variety of dimensions of vulnerability. Clusters may be developed by combining societal and ecological characteristics of these coupled systems that are generally thought to be important to managers or decisionmakers, or individual typologies could be developed for each of these “compartments” and then be cross-walked.

“Social vulnerability” variables could include characteristics such as demographic, economic, and traits such as how recently has a place been hit with a significant disaster.

“Ecological vulnerability” characteristics would account for resources such as the presence of public lands and also, perhaps, some type of “score” for these lands in terms of ecological value (e.g., number of endemic species; number of endangered/threatened species; rare habitats; dependencies of freshwater).

The hot spot analysis would also include characterization of exposure to some suite of physical SLR-related “hazards”. Exposure information would be cross-walked with socioeconomic and ecological vulnerability typologies in both tabular and mapped form.

**Synthesis of SLR-related hazards vulnerability assessment frameworks and lessons learned**

The goal will be to develop a rapid summary of frameworks/approaches/lessons learned for a subset of the VA frameworks and approaches that are out there…those that address SLR-related hazards for coupled human-natural systems. The intent is to better define a niche for LCC-CSC collaboration in SLR-related VAs.